

Appl. No. 09/729651
Amdt. dated August 3, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 3, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10 (canceled)

11. (previously amended) A hierarchical routing method using an internet address system introducing a zip code system, wherein a routing process is performed in the internet address system, by using the zip code system consisting of hierarchical administrative district codes, the hierarchical routing process being integrated or segmented according to the respective steps of the zip code system in countries worldwide, the hierarchical routing process further comprising:

a first step wherein a router of a high level area code hierarchy identifies a high level area code in the zip code system, and forwards to a corresponding high level area;

a second step wherein a router of a middle level area code hierarchy identifies a middle level area code in the zip code system, and forwards to a corresponding middle level area;

a third step wherein a router of a low level area code hierarchy identifies a low level area code in the zip code system, and forwards to a corresponding low level area; and

a fourth step wherein a router of a subscriber ID number hierarchy identifies a subscriber ID number, and routes to a destination identical to the subscriber ID number.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the hierarchical routing process further comprises a step wherein a router of a country code hierarchy identifies a country code, and forwards to a corresponding country, prior to the first step.

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14. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method according to claim 11, wherein IPv6 address system is used as the internet address system, and the zip code systems of the respective countries are used as the zip code system.

15. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the internet address system includes a top level aggregation identifier field.